

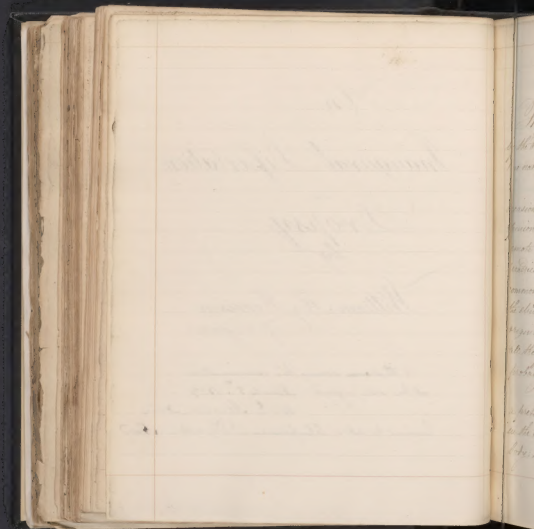
An
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Dropsy
by

William A. Morrison
of Virginia.

~~Withdrawn~~ during his examination
at his own request March 5th 1823

W. E. Horner, Secy

Examined by Jos. Chapman - Physician - Hard

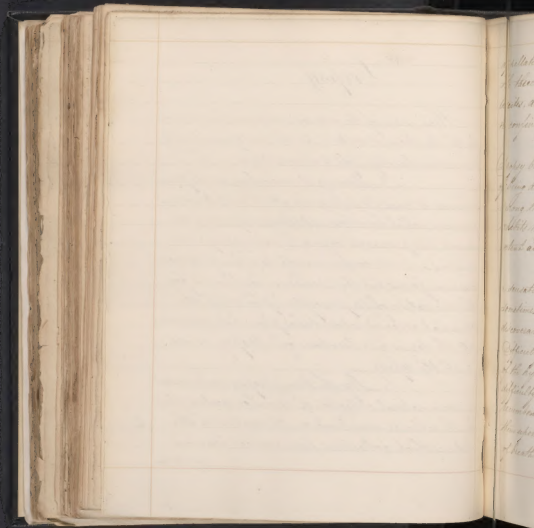


Empoison

This is one of the diseases which has been described by the older medical writers; but the development of its true nature has been left to modern times.

Deeming it unnecessary on the present occasion to trace its history and attend to all the various opinions which have been entertained respecting its remote and proximate causes and its appropriate remedies, I will confine myself to a few of its more common forms and their remedies, and record for the education of the practitioner upon which the original disease is to take place, and upon which its the forms and locations of Empoison most probably depend.

By the term Empoison we understand a preternatural collection of dense or watery fluids in the cellular membrane or the cavities of the body; which collections have received various
additions



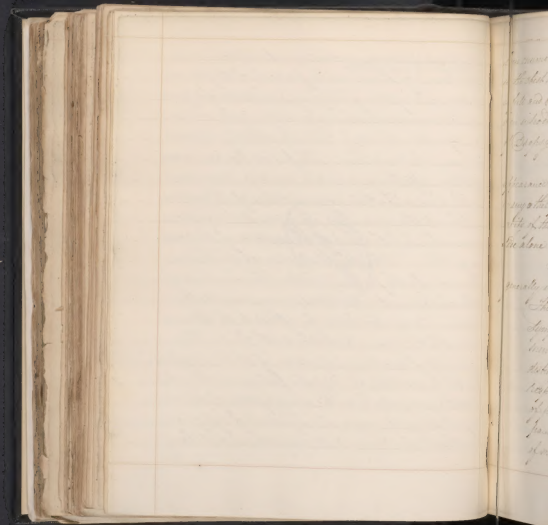
appellations according to their location. Of these, the three most common forms are, Hydrothorax, Ascites, and Anasarca; and it is to these I wish to confine my attention.

We may presume that the cause of Dropsy being general, every cavity in the body capable of being distended, may become the seat of this disease. Among these the Thorax is one which frequently exhibits the symptoms of Dropsy in their most alarming extent and unequivocal character.

The symptoms of Hydrothorax are, a sensation in the chest of the fluctuation of a fluid, sometimes sensible to the patient, at others only discoverable by the Physician, a slow and laborious difficulty of breathing occasioned by the pressure of the hydrostatic fluid upon the lungs, increased difficulty of breathing and anxiety of feeling in a recumbent posture and immediate alleviation of these upon assuming an erect position. Shortness of breath and Cough which is at first dry, but as the



When all these symptoms are apparent, no doubt can reasonably be entertained of the existence of the disease in question. When the fluctuation of the fluid is perceived by the patient without the concurrence of other characteristic symptoms, no any remarkable degree, it may sometimes be referred to the Hemorrhoid, when that virus is disturbed with fluid. The difficulty of breathing, palpitation of the heart, agitated & chilly excited, and disturbed feelings are somewhat positive, may also be ranked as symptoms of cardiac or pulmonary derangement independent of rheumatic diathesis, but when all the symptoms which have been

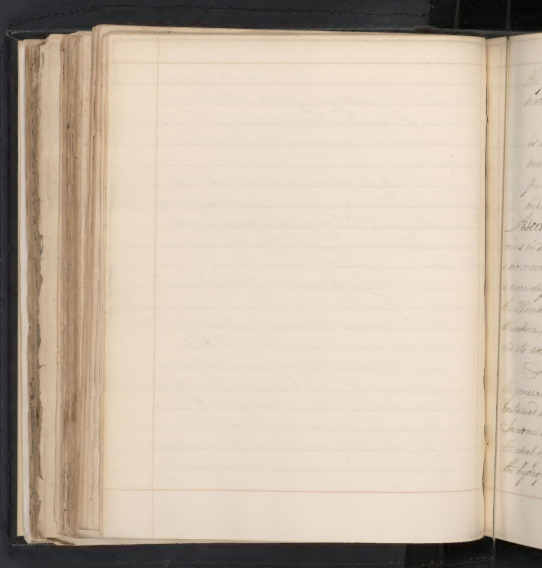


then exasperated, occurs more especially the fluctuation
in the chest, being exactly brought to a few the stomach
is full and at a considerable time after any thing has
been introduced into it, demonstrate the existence
of Dropsy.

Hydrothorax sometimes makes its
appearance without any previous symptoms of Dropsy
in any other part. It is not always general in the
cavity of the thorax, being sometimes confined to one
side alone.

The prognosis in *Hydrothorax* is
generally unfavorable.

The *Hydrothorax Pleuriticum* is attended by
Symptoms so similar to those of the last
mentioned form of Dropsy, as scarcely to be
distinguishable. The continual difficulty of
respiration, however, not alleviated by change
of position, the greater extent of motion, the
pain about the thoracic and the impossibility
of making a copious exhalation, may enable the



1859. The first of the year
was a very cold one, and the
frost was very early. The
first snow fell on the 1st of
November, and was followed
by a heavy frost. The
frost was very early, and
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My dear Mother
I have been thinking much of late
about the future of the world
and the state of the human mind
and the progress of science
and the influence of religion
and the power of the state
and the nature of the soul
and the destiny of the human race
and the future of the world
and the state of the human mind
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and the nature of the soul
and the destiny of the human race



My dear friend
I have just received your letter
of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are
well. I am well at present
and hope these few lines
will find you the same.

Yours truly
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

I have just received your letter
of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are
well. I am well at present
and hope these few lines
will find you the same.











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of the year 1861
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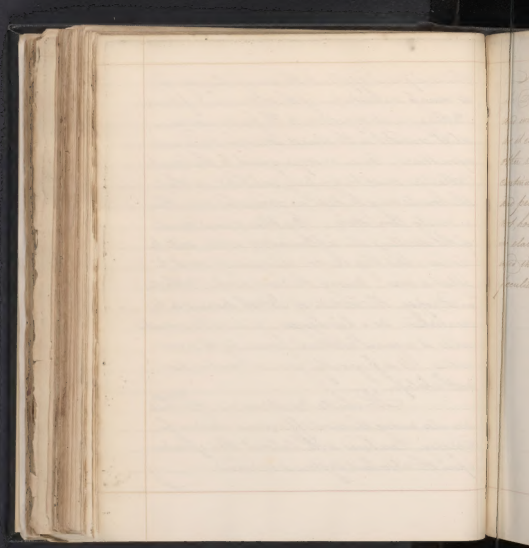






that is at present applied to the cure of Dropsy, ^{and}
its success is illustrative of the improvement of the
Pathology in its application to the former practice,
which consisted in the almost exclusive dependence
upon tonics. As an accompaniment to the lancet
Cathartics must be regularly exhibited, so that
the bowels may be kept in somewhat more than
a merely loose state. By these means much
of that dwelling and inflammatory action will be
removed; but they are not always sufficient to
effect a cure. Among the most useful Cathartics
in Dropsy, the Extract of Sassafras deserves to be
mentioned. As a hydropic, perhaps it is undervalued
while it acquires additional power by its diuretic
virtues. It is frequently given in combination
with Salap.

The Silla Maritima and ^{Myra} Rhubarb
are also among the most efficacious remedies for
Dropsy. Combined with Calomel this operation
upon the absorbent system is increased.



I have mentioned only three methods of treating Dropsy, which are the most powerful and obvious, and which are most generally adapted to the disease, as it commonly appears. There are a variety of other remedies which have been employed and still continue in use, whose powers may be considerable, and peculiarly adapted to particular cases. I have not, however, considered it necessary to enter upon an elaborate detail of the varieties of Dropsy, and its remedies, as would comprehend all their peculiarities.

